

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

RESTRICTED

G/SPS/W/103
30 August 1999

(99-3542)

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE OPERATION OF SPS ENQUIRY POINTS AND NATIONAL NOTIFICATION AUTHORITIES

1. Pursuant to Article 14 of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures "[t]he least-developed country Members may delay application of the provisions of this Agreement for a period of five years following the date of entry into force of the WTO Agreement with respect to their sanitary or phytosanitary measures affecting importation or imported products". This period ends on 31 December 1999. Following the expiry of this transition period, the least-developed countries are, *inter alia*, subject to the obligations to establish an Enquiry Point, as provided for in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Annex B of the SPS Agreement; and a National Notification Authority responsible for the implementation, at the national level, of the provisions concerning notification procedures according to paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 8 of Annex B.
 2. The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect information from Members on the operation of their Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities. Drawing on Members' experience the Secretariat then intends to develop a manual to assist least-developed countries in the establishment of Enquiry Points and National Notification Authorities.
 3. Members are therefore requested to fill in the attached questionnaire. Any additional information relevant to the matter at issue is also welcome. To receive an electronic version of the questionnaire, please send an e-mail to Christiane.Wolff@wto.org (cc: Irma.Bracco@wto.org) with the words "Enquiry Point Questionnaire" in the subject line.
 4. Please return the completed questionnaire to the Secretariat by Friday, 30 September 1999.
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QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE OPERATION OF SPS ENQUIRY POINTS AND NATIONAL NOTIFICATION AUTHORITIES

Enquiry Point and National Notification Authority

1. Are SPS Enquiry Point and National Notification Authority two separate agencies?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, how do they co-ordinate?

Staff and equipment – Enquiry Point

2. Please indicate how many officials serve the Enquiry Point and describe their functions.

3. What equipment does the Enquiry Point use?

Telephone [] **Fax** [] **Computer** []

4. If the Enquiry Point has computer facilities, which of the following are used?

Word processor [] **Please specify: MS Word** [], **Word Perfect** [], **Other** []
Database [] **Please specify:**
Internet (www) [] **Address:**
e-mail [] **Address:**
Other [] **Please specify:**

Staff and equipment –National Notification Authority

5. Please indicate how many officials serve the National Notification Authority and describe their functions.

6. What equipment does the National Notification Authority use?

Telephone [] **Fax** [] **Computer** []

7. If the National Notification Authority has computer facilities, which of the following are used?

Word processor [] **Please specify: MS Word** [], **Word Perfect** [], **Other** []
Database [] **Please specify:**
Internet (www) [] **Address:**
e-mail [] **Address:**
Other [] **Please specify:**

Handling requests for full text of proposed and adopted regulations

8. Who handles requests for full texts of proposed regulations (draft regulations)?

Enquiry Point [] **Notification Authority** []

9. Do you have a complete inventory of your country's proposed and adopted sanitary and phytosanitary regulations?

Yes, at the Enquiry Point [] **Yes, at the Notification Authority** [] **No** []

10. Do you have copies of the full texts of your country's proposed and adopted sanitary and phytosanitary regulations?

Yes, at the Enquiry Point [] **Yes, at the Notification Authority** [] **No** []

- If not, how do you obtain texts when they are requested? How long does it usually take?

11. In case your country's language is not one of the WTO's working languages (English, French and Spanish), is the Enquiry Point/Notification Authority able to provide summaries of the sanitary and phytosanitary regulations in one of these languages?

Yes, the Enquiry Point [] **Yes, the Notification Authority** [] **No** []

Handling other requests for information

12. Are questions addressed to the Enquiry Point (e.g. about control and inspection procedures, quarantine treatment, risk assessment, bilateral and multilateral agreements etc.) answered *directly* by the Enquiry Point?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, please give a brief explanation of the procedure followed by the Enquiry Point.

- If not, please give a brief explanation of the procedure followed by the Enquiry Point and identify the authorities dealing with those questions.

13. How long does it normally take to respond to questions?

Inter-agency communication and co-ordination

14. Does the Enquiry Point have regular contact with officials in the relevant ministries/agencies (for example agriculture, health and trade ministries, veterinary office, plant protection office, etc.)?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, how often? With whom (at what level)? What type of information does the Enquiry Point provide/receive?

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15. Does the National Notification Authority have regular contact with officials in the relevant ministries/agencies (for example agriculture, health and trade ministries, veterinary office, plant protection office, etc.)?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, how often? With whom (at what level)? What type of information does the National Notification Authority provide/receive?

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SPS documents/committee meetings

16. Does the Enquiry Point receive other Members' SPS notifications?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, how (fax, email, etc.)?

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17. Does the Enquiry Point receive copies of other SPS Committee documents?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, how?

18. Does the Enquiry Point regularly follow the work of the SPS Committee?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, how?

19. Does the Enquiry Point have regular contact with other WTO Members' Enquiry Points?

Yes [] **No** []

- For what purpose?

Other services

20. Does the Enquiry Point provide information about *other* countries' import requirements to interested domestic producers/exporters?

Yes [] **Yes, when requested** [] **No** []

- If yes, please specify.

21. Does the Enquiry Point provide information about *your national* import requirements to interested producers/importers/exporters?

Yes [] **Yes, when requested** [] **No** []

- If yes, please specify.

22. Does the Enquiry Point provide any other services? (For example serving as contact point for Codex, OIE, IPPC, etc.)

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, please explain.

Information exchange

23. Is the Enquiry Point regularly informed of the development of international standards by Codex, OIE and IPPC?

Yes [] **No** []

- If yes, how?

Comments/Suggestions

24. Do you have any other comments about the operation of an Enquiry Point, or suggestions for those who are to establish an Enquiry Point?

25. Do you have any other comments about the operation of a National Notification Authority, or suggestions for those who are to establish a National Notification Authority?

Technical assistance

26. Would you be willing to provide technical assistance to Enquiry Points?

Yes, to least-developed countries [] **Yes, to other developing countries** [] **No** []

- If yes, in what form?

27. Would you be willing to provide technical assistance to National Notification Authorities?

Yes, to least-developed countries [] **Yes, to other developing countries** [] **No** []

- If yes, in what form?

